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☞ Communications designed for publication should be addressed to

C. O. BRIGHAM, Editor.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscriptions, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. X.—NO. 10. WEEKLY EDITION. JANUARY 11, 1873.

1873.

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL.

Daily and Weekly.

LEADING PENNSYLVANIA PAPER.

A paper so widely known as the COMMERCIAL can safely refer to its course in the past as a guaranty for the future. But it will not be content to pursue the beaten path. The re-election of General Grant insures for the country a lengthened period of prosperity and progress. The press is destined to play a still more important part as the educator of the people and leader of public opinion. In the future, as in the past, the COMMERCIAL will not be content to lag in the rear, but will be fully up to the times in whatever relates to the general welfare.

As a PAPER OF GENERAL INTELLIGENCE AND MEDIUM OF THE LATEST NEWS, the COMMERCIAL is widely known and appreciated. We expend annually many thousands of dollars to supply the wants of the public.

As a PAPER OF PROGRESS, it will hereafter continue to maintain its character in this respect.

As a PAPER OF OPINION, the COMMERCIAL will continue to discuss men and measures with perfect freedom, and with an eye single to the public good, believing that the principles of the Republican party will thereby be best subserved.

As an INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PAPER, the COMMERCIAL will criticise its own party for its own good, believing that in free discussion and the independent expression of opinion only can our institutions be preserved.

As a BUSINESS PAPER, the COMMERCIAL will hereafter, as heretofore, employ every agency it can command to meet the wants of the public. Now that the period of party excitement has been passed, it will pay special attention to topics interesting in the counting room, the banks and marts of trade, giving prominence to Science, Art, Invention, Agriculture and Manufactures.

As a PAPER FOR THE FAMILY it will give reading calculated to instruct, improve the reading taste and improve the mind.

As a MARKET PAPER its reports will always possess a special excellence, so that the buyer and seller can at all times rely on its columns for every necessary information as to prices and the spirit of the different branches of trade. Everything that is bought and sold in the Pittsburgh market and the leading markets of the country will receive careful attention, and at a large cost.

The country is about entering on a period of unexampled prosperity. The field of journalism is constantly expanding. It will be the aim of the COMMERCIAL to hold a position in it along with the leading journals of the country.

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Five Copies, each	1 75
Ten Copies, each	1 50
Twenty Copies, each	1 40
Fifty Copies, each	1 25

To every person sending us a club of twenty-five subscribers at $2 00 each, we will present a Silver Hunting Case Watch, warranted.

Our beautiful Chromo will be given to each subscriber remitting us $2 00.

Additions to Clubs may be made at any time in the year, at the above Club rates.

TERMS—Cash in advance. Send Postoffice money order, bank draft or registered letter. Bills sent by mail will be at the risk of the sender.

Specimen copies, posters, &c., sent free of charge, wherever and whenever desired.

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THE COMMERCIAL,

PITTSBURGH, PA.

PROF. WEST, THE MURDERER.

A Youth of Queer Notions—A Notorious Liar —A Blasphemer and Swindler.

Prof. Jesse Collins West, who killed and flayed the negro Cooch Turner, at Dover, Del., a short time since, was at last accounts still alive, but much depressed in spirits. In his youth he was eccentric and full of the queerest notions, but managed to graduate with some little singular from Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa., after four years he has borne the reputation of a "very singular fellow." After a course of study in medicine, West turned his attention to the treatment of pulmonary diseases by the inhalation of gas. In his youth and later, he was known as a notorious liar, his chief delight being to report to his friends and others that he had fallen heir to vast estates in South America or elsewhere. One very serious charge against the doctor, for which he is now imprisoned is charged upon him. There is a very prevalent rumor that he was married two or three years ago to his cousin, Miss McAdam, a beautiful and amiable young lady of Sussex county, Pa. West, it is said, has long since grown tired of her, but her friends were opposed to the match. One report says he decoyed the girl away and was married to her in Philadelphia, and that subsequently he told her that the clergyman who performed the ceremony was one of his friends who assumed the character for the occasion, and that she was not his wife. Thereupon, it is further said, he left her in terrible anguish, with a boy to take care of. Another rumor says that he was actually married to his cousin, but that he prevailed on the young lady, who was very pious, to believe that any nebuchlers he was wicked because of too close consanguinity. Again, he is reported to have engaged in an unsuccessful attempt to swindle an aged negress out of government money due her as bounty for the army services of her son, who perished at Gettysburg. And again he has acted, without authority, as a government detective. There is probably little doubt that the man is insane, but whether sane or not, he is to make him responsible the courts must decide.

A Turkish Betrothal.

An English lady, who was present, sends an account of the betrothal of Khalil Pasha with the Princess Nazel, daughter of Mustapha Fazil, which took place at Constantinople on October 19th. She says that the bride was dressed with exquisite taste in a blue satin robe, covered with English point lace. On her neck was a diamond necklace of great value, and on her head a diadem of the same precious stones. Her superb mass of light hair and her languishing black eyes made her one of the loveliest brides imaginable. Attendants spread on the floor rich Cashmere shawls, and the Princess appeared and advanced to her mother, whose hands she kissed. When that ceremony was being performed, eunuchs threw in the air numerous gold coins, which were picked up by the slaves either as memorials or gratifications. That form is the expression of the hope that the future spouse may always be fortunate. After being introduced into another room, where some Arab musicians were concealed behind a curtain. They played and sang at the same time. Her hair was combed to those strange strains for half an hour, and eaten a spoonful of sweetmeats, we passed into another apartment, where a sumptuous repast awaited us. After dinner we all met in another room, where coffee was served up by a white slave, who superintended a buffet covered with a velvet cloth embroidered with gold and enriched with diamonds, emeralds, and other precious stones, on which was placed the coffee in cups of Sevres, with saucers of gold and jewels, the compartments of which were of silver. These were handed round with cigarettes for those ladies who like to smoke. Then four white female dancers were brought in to amuse the company. Afterwards a necklace with a medallion, ornamented with large brilliants, which must have cost a fortune, was brought in to be admired by the persons present. This was the betrothal present made by the future husband to his intended wife.

John Tyler, Jr., is one of the prominent candidates named for the United States Senate from Florida.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

RUST IN WHEAT.

"R. M. Y.," Abington, Va., writes to the *Southern Farm and Home:* "While I do not claim to have discovered an infallible cure for rust in wheat, I believe I have found the means of preventing rust in four crops out of five, perhaps more. You remember how destructive rust was to the last crop in nearly all the wheat producing sections of the South. I raised as fine a crop as ever I had in my life, and I am an old farmer, while all my neighbors' crops were ruined by rust. I attribute my escape to top-dressing my wheat in March with wood ashes, putting on about twelve bushels to the acre. I got the idea from some Northern publication (I forget the name) which recommended ashes not only as a preventive of rust but as the best manure for growing wheat. My experience was so successful that I mean to top-dress my crop this year if I have to buy and haul my ashes.

BOILING RICE—CAROLINA METHOD.

First pick clean from rough grains and foreign substances; then wash it quickly in cold water and hurry it to the pot before the grain is at all softened. As to the quantity of water to be used in boiling, their are two modes; one is to put in twice as much water as rice, and allow it to be absorbed by the grain; the other is to put in three or four times as much water, but to pour almost all of it off as soon as the grain changes from its pearly white color and gives proof of having softened. In both modes, when this stage of the boiling has been attained, the pot is to be withdrawn from the hot fire and set where it will be kept at a low steaming heat until the water is all gone. This last process is called "soaking." Properly conducted the rice comes from the pot perfectly dry, of a clear white, with each grain firm and distinct, and swelled to it's original size. We, of course, is to be added. Rice prepared in this way should not be stirred much in boiling or it will become gluey; a large open fork passed through it once or twice will be sufficient.

PRESERVING POTATOES.

A correspondent of the *Scientific American* says he has tried the following method of keeping potatoes for years with complete success though in some instances the tubes were diseased when taken out of the ground; 'Dust over the floor of the bin with lime, and put in about six or seven inches deep of potatoes, and dust with lime as before. Put in six or seven inches of potatoes and lime again; repeat the operation until all are stored away, the last bushel of lime will do for forty bushels of potatoes, though more will hurt them—the lime rather improving the flavor than otherwise."

BAD MILK AND BUTTER IN WINTER.

It is said that when cows are allowed to eat litter which is thrown out of horses stables impregnated as it is with liquid manure, their milk and butter will be tained with the taste, in the same way that the flavor is injured by eating turnips, but to a more disagreeable degree. If litter is allowed to be eaten, it should be only given to other cattle, and not to milch cows, which should have nothing but the sweetest and purest food.

HOW TO FATTEN A HORSE.

The Germantown *Telegraph* says: To fatten a horse that has fallen off in flesh is sometimes a tedious business—indeed the work of months. The following suggestions to accomplish it, however, though without paternity, looks to us as wise and to the purpose: Many good horses devour large quantities of grain and still continue thin and poor; the food eaten is not properly assimilated. If the usual food has been unground grain and hay, nothing but a change will effect any d sirable alteration in the general condition of the animal. Ju ce oatmeal cannot be obtained readily, mingle a bushel of flax seed with a bushel of barley, one of oats and another bushel of Indian corn, and have

OUR COMMON SCHOOLS.

Annual Report of the State Superintendent.

Wonderful Progress in School Affairs.

Number of Pupils in the State, 834,313.

Total Expenditures for the Year, $8,345,072 78.

Interesting Educational Statistics.

Prof J. P. Wickersham, Superintendent of Common Schools, will to-day submit to His Excellency, Governor Geary, and the members of the Legislature, his annual report for the year ending June 34, 1872. The report is an unusually interesting one, as the following abstract will show:

The superintendent opens his report by congratulating the Legislature and all true patriots upon the continued growth and prosperity of our system of public schools, the present condition of which is shown by the following summary:

Number of school districts in the State.	2,929
Number of schools	15,999
Number of graded schools	4,993
Number of school directors	13,456
Number of superintendents	83
Number of teachers employed	18,368
Average salaries of male teachers per month	$41 71
Average salaries of female teachers per month	$34 60
Average length of school term in months	6.4
Number of pupils	834,313
Average number of pupils	586,221
Percentage of attendance upon the whole number	66
Average cost of tuition per month for each pupil	$1 00
Cost of collecting, paying with bonus	$4,104,273 59
Cost of building purchasing and renting school houses	2,884,113 35
Cost of contingencies	1,264,685 90
Total cost for tuition, building, &c., and contingencies	8,233,072 78
Total cost, including expenditures of all kinds	8,345,072 78
Estimated value of school property	18,869,624 00

If to the $8,345,072 78, expended for common schools, we add the $512,930 62, expended for orphan schools, we have a grand total of $8,869,003 40 expended for school purposes, under the direction of the Department, during the year.

The following table shows the Items, as compared with those of last year, are as follows:

Increase in number of districts	6
Increase in number of schools	299
Increase in number of graded schools	341
Increase in number of directors	384
Increase in number of superintendents	1
Increase in number of teachers	347
Decrease in number of pupils	307
Decrease in average number of pupils	20,967
Increase in cost of tuition	$177,766 60
Increase in cost of contingencies	97,599 99
Decrease in cost of building, purchasing and renting school houses	522,150 16
Decrease in total cost, including expenditures of all kinds	235,845 56

The decrease in the number of pupils enrolled and in the average number attending school during the year is the prevalence of the small-pox in almost all parts of the State during the winter months. In some sections many schools were broken up.

The decrease in the amount expended for building school houses is owing to the law in respect to school directors coming into operation in 1871, which has greatly checked school house building.

The increase in the number of graded schools and in the salaries of teachers is very cheering.

The wonderful progress made in our school affairs is strikingly shown by comparing the items of expenditures, the six years ending June, 1872, with the six preceding years, as follows:

Total cost for tuition for six years, from 1867 to 1872, inclusive	$21,678,258 61
Total cost for six years, from 1861 to 1866, inclusive	12,745,061 71
Increase	$ 8,933,196 90

Total cost of fuel and contingencies for six years, from 1867 to 1872, inclusive	$6,178,925 13
Total cost for six years, from 1861 to 1866, inclusive	2,518,908 20
Increase	$3,659,616 93
Total cost for building, purchasing and renting school houses, from 1867 to 1872, inclusive	$12,952,152 11
Total cost, from 1861 to 1866, inclusive	10,509,149 51
Increase	$23,362,002 63

Average salary paid to male teachers from 1867 to 1872, inclusive	$ 39 28
From 1861 to 1866, inclusive	27 50
Increase	$ 11 78
Average salary paid to female teachers from 1867 to 1872, inclusive	$ 31 10
From 1861 to 1866, inclusive	21 15
Increase	$ 9 95

Pennsylvania has no school fund. The money she pays for education is raised by a tax upon property taxation. The people in the school districts vote the money to support the schools voluntarily out of their own pockets. In this way the figures above given accurately measure the progress made in our school affairs in the last ten years, and the increased public interest in public education on the part of the people.

TABULAR STATEMENTS.

The following is a summary of the statistical tables appended to the report:

The State, outside of Philadelphia, had, during the year, 15,145 schools, 16,784 teachers, an attendance of 699,869 pupils, an average attendance of 464,194, and an average term of six months. She paid her male teachers an average salary of $40 29 per month, and her female teachers, $31 10; while the expenses for school houses $2,858,637 39, for tuition $3,291,191 78, for contingencies $963,798 96, and for school property $2,620,450 00.

Philadelphia, at the date of last report, had 388 school houses, 1,584 teachers, 91,153 registered pupils, 69,125 pupils belonging to the school at the close of the year, and school property valued at $4,-664,794. She had expended for school purposes during the year $1,612,574 65. Her male teachers were paid $154 27 per month, another female, $50 37. The following table shows:

THE EDUCATIONAL GROWTH IN THE PAST EIGHT YEARS:

Number of teachers who attended	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872
	9,758	10,704	11,081	11,281	11,992	12,021	11,961	11,969
Total cost, including expenses of all kinds	$3,614,428 58	$4,130,238 49	$4,707,313 67	$5,098,148 30	$5,598,189 53	$6,109,306 78	$6,109,306 78	$6,345,072 78
School houses	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872
	1,991,192 91	2,426,341 91	2,858,637 39	2,620,450 00	2,886,023 81	2,964,113 35		
Cost of tuition	$2,315,378 68	$2,768,238 68	$3,291,191 78					
Average salary of female teachers per month	$21 15	$21 10	$31 10	$31 10	$31 10	$31 10	$31 10	$31 10
Average salary of male teachers per month	$27 50	$31 78	$39 28	$39 28	$39 28	$39 28	$39 28	$39 28
Graded schools	1,210	1,650	3,425	3,767	4,134	4,652	4,993	4,998
Years	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872
	1,210	1,650	3,425	3,767	4,134	4,652	4,993	4,998

EXPENDITURES.

The State appropriation was $650,000. Of this amount, $115,607 94 was paid to Philadelphia, $92,-388 56 to cities and boroughs having superintendents under the law of 1867; $69,560 to County Superintendents on account of salaries; $12,000 to State Normal schools; $2,500 to Lincoln University, and $294,843 50 to the several districts of the Commonwealth. This last amount was distributed at the rate of three mills on the dollar.

The Complanter Indians were paid $300, under the provisions of a special act.

The expenditures of the Department for its own support amount to $13,317 51, or, including the Superintendent's salary, $16,317 51.

But little change is asked to be made in the appropriation for the coming year, except in the general appropriation which it is considered necessary to increase at least $50,000. Let it be remembered that this appropriation puts money into the people's pockets, and does not take it out.

THE RECUSANT DISTRICTS.

In 1869, there were twenty-four districts in the State, with some five thousand children, that had refused to open public schools. Some of them had private schools in operation, but in most the education of the children was greatly neglected. The act of 1869, and the energetic measures that have been under it, has, as may be seen in detail by the statement, about accomplished the much needed work of bringing all the recusant districts into line. By next June, Pennsylvania will, for the first time, have in operation a public school system throughout all her borders.

PERMANENT CERTIFICATES.

The whole number of permanent certificates now granted is 970, 182 of which were granted the past year. Only 220 teachers holding this class of certificate now teach in the State. As a general thing, sufficient care has been taken in granting it only to worthy persons.

CONDITION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS, GRADES, ETC.

From this statement it appears that the grounds connected with our 14,078 school houses, 6,132 are of sufficient size, and 909 are suitably improved. Of the houses themselves, 7,581 are frame, 3,738 are brick or stone; 297 are log; number built during the year, 503; number built for use, 2,762; badly ventilated, 4,602; without a suitable privy, 4,479; of first class, 2,113; with suitable furniture, 5,175; with injurious furniture, 2,324; supplied with furniture during the year, 666; well supplied with apparatus, 2,267; without apparatus work mentioning, 4,381; in which apparatus was increased during the year, 883. Of our 14,078 school houses, and of those built, 1,964 were graded during the year. There are 757 graded schools still needed. The number of separate schools for colored children is 74. The number of schools well classified is 9,792; in which text books are uniform, 10,625; in which the Bible is read, 10,667; in which drawing is taught, 1,364; in which vocal music is taught, 2,215; in which higher branches are taught, 1,305.

PITTSBURGH SCHOOLS.

The condition and working of the school system of the city of Pittsburgh, as exhibited by the City Superintendent, Mr. Luckey, is summarized as follows:

Pittsburgh has 54 school houses, containing 393 rooms. They will seat 19,000 pupils. Compared with those of any city in the State or the nation. Of the teachers employed, 35 are males and 196 are females; 74 have taught for less than one year, and 148 have taught more than five years; 130 have read books on teaching, and have graduated a State Normal school; 92 hold permanent certificates, and 65 hold professional certificates; 213 attended Pittsburgh Institute. The Bible is read in all the schools of Pittsburgh; vocal music is taught in all the schools; drawing is taught in high school and in advanced grammar schools; the high school is the only one well supplied with apparatus.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTES.

The attendance of actual members at the institutes was 11,625; the average attendance of actual members, 8,927; the attendance of honorary members, 898, the attendance of spectators, counting those present at some one session of the institute, 28,625. The institutes were instructed by 431 lecturers and 256 essayists, and cost the several counties $13,240 18 and the members $4,812 05. Money was received from other sources to the amount of $4,992 97.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOLS.

There were six State Normal schools in operation during the past year. These have had, since their organization, 15,662 students, of whom 2,485 attended the past year; have graduated 575, of whom 59 graduated the past year; 441 students have received State aid as graduates, and 1,049 as undergraduates. The Normal schools had, during the past year, 74 professors and teachers; 9,995 volumes in their libraries; property whose value is estimated at $589,-195 94; an aggregate indebtedness of $148,495 19; an income of $177,876 26, and expenditures amounting to $168,471 38.

ORPHAN SCHOOL SUMMARY.

Number of institutions in which there are soldiers' orphans	37
Number of orphans in schools and homes, May 31, 1871	3,525
Number of orphans received from May 31, 1871, to October 1, 1872	889
Number discharged from May 31, 1871, to October 1, 1872	847
Number of orphans in charge of the state October 1, 1872	3,482
Number of orders of admission issued since system went into operation	7,918
Number of applications now on file	None.
Probable number of orphans that will be cared for under the system	7,000
Cost of the system for the past year	$475,245 47
Whole cost of the system since going into operation	2,467,543 81
Probable amount of future appropriations that will be needed	1,500,000 00

Our system of orphan schools has cost the State a large amount of money, but no one who understands its workings can doubt its economy. Not two per cent. of the children who leave the schools at the age of sixteen turn out badly. What they would have become if the State had not cared for them, may be inferred from the alarming fact that two-thirds of the population of our prisons and houses of refuge are composed of orphans. Indeed the wisdom of the policy that has provided homes and instruction for the 7,000 orphans of our soldiers is such that I do not hesitate to urge the present to the Legislature, in a somewhat modified form, to embrace all orphans. For one dollar the State would thus wisely spend in caring for her destitute orphan children, she would save at least ten dollars; and what is of vastly more account, she would save the children.

ERA OF SCHOOL HOUSE BUILDING.

The period during which the present Superintendent has been connected with the Department, may well be called the era of school house building. There was paid for building and repairing school houses in the State, during the year, $2,884,113 35; number built, 503; number built of brick or stone, 297; number built of frame, 203; number built of logs, 3; number repaired, 1,259; number built for use, 2,762; badly ventilated, 4,602; without a suitable privy, 4,479; of first class, 2,113; with suitable furniture, 5,175; with injurious furniture, 2,324; supplied with furniture during the year, 666; well supplied with apparatus, 2,267; without apparatus work mentioning, 4,381; in which apparatus was increased during the year, 883. Of our 14,078 school houses, and of those built, 1,964 were graded during the year. There are 757 graded schools still needed. The number of separate schools for colored children is 74. The number of schools well classified is 9,792; in which text books are uniform, 10,625; in which the Bible is read, 10,667; in which drawing is taught, 1,364; in which vocal music is taught, 2,215; in which higher branches are taught, 1,305.

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The attendance of actual members at the institutes was 11,625; the average attendance of actual members, 8,927; the attendance of honorary members, 898, the attendance of spectators, counting those present at some one session of the institute, 28,625. The institutes were instructed by 431 lecturers and 256 essayists, and cost the several counties $13,240 18 and the members $4,812 05. Money was received from other sources to the amount of $4,992 97.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOLS.

There were six State Normal schools in operation during the past year. These have had, since their organization, 15,662 students, of whom 2,485 attended the past year; have graduated 575, of whom 59 graduated the past year; 441 students have received State aid as graduates, and 1,049 as undergraduates. The Normal schools had, during the past year, 74 professors and teachers; 9,995 volumes in their libraries; property whose value is estimated at $589,-195 94; an aggregate indebtedness of $148,495 19; an

A Machine for Measuring Gas.

An ingenious apparatus is now employed in London for ascertaining each day the quality of the gas furnished by companies for the public consumption. This apparatus consists, first, of a gas meter which presents the same features and principles as the watch, which revolves once in a minute, while the other makes a complete revolution during the passage through the latter of one-twelfth of a cubic foot of gas.

The first of these movements, being maintained by a clock-work mechanism, is therefore independent on the velocity of flow, or what is the same thing, on the rate of burning, may be varied by varying the burners. Specifically, the first revolves once in a cubic foot or gas passes with each revolution, if the second revolves once in a minute, then with passage of one cubic foot in two minutes or five cubic feet per hour. As the law requires that the gas shall possess an illuminating power, when burned at the rate of five cubic feet per hour, not inferior to that of fourteen sperm candles consuming each one hundred and twenty grains of the combustible in the same time, this apparatus, when combined with a suitable photometer, may be used to make the application of the test very easy. Before entering the meter, the burner, the photometer, and, moreover, which maintains the burning pressure uniform, however variable may be the pressure in the mains.

A New Sort of Sunday Service.

[From the Cincinnati Commercial.]

The Rev. Frederick Silver of the Church of England was some twenty years ago preaching in a barn in Worcestershire, which contained a distillery and vice. Having some wealth at command, he determined to establish a church there, and while he found Sunday the worst day in the week, and decided that he must bring what forces he could to bear on that day, for the drinking and disorderly people preferred meetings, and others religious exercises, for the undermining of Satan and his power. But Mr. Silver took a fanatic's delight in the opposition and the fact that $1,212 was the sum total in the State between the ages of ten and twenty—the years cannot write, and nature can only bear a fraction of labor—is very gratifying that the number is so small in comparison with the number of illiterates over twenty-one years of age. This shows conclusively that our education schools are producing in fair measure the fruit that is expected of them.

It is to be feared, however, that the number of illiterates, both of youth and those of mature age, is much greater than the census shows to be the actual number. Few would be reported by themselves as being without education, and the number reported to the Census Marshals, is much below

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, January 11, 1873.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 8, 1873.

We give herewith a tabular statement of the reports of the national banks of this city, with those of Allegheny and Birmingham.

The item of most interest is the condition of the reserves; notwithstanding the demand on the resources of the banks their aggregate reserve shows a surplus above the 25 per cent. required by law.

The surplus earnings show an increase of $21,340 since the report of October 3—during which time nearly all the banks have paid dividends ranging from 8 to 16 per cent. per annum. The Iron City paying 8 per cent. semi-annually, the Farmers' Deposit 4 per cent. quarterly and the First National 3 per cent. quarterly. The deposit line shows a decrease of $389,684 since the last report, a falling off of $1,249,427 since that of June 10th; yet the loans have been pulled down but $193,941 since October 3, and $554,345 since June 10, 1872.

The First National still holds her prominence as having the largest deposit line, showing but a few thousand less than at the last report. The Allegheny National has made the largest advance, having increased her deposit line $63,902. "Bills re-discounted" figure about $160,000 for the whole list, showing but little help has been received from outside quarters. Taking into consideration the active demand for money during the past ninety days, the favorable condition of the reports should be a cause of self-congratulation among the officers managing these institutions.

REPORT OF DECEMBER 27, 1872.

BANKS.	Total Discounts.	Total Overdrafts.	Specie.	Legal Tenders.	Due from Reserve Agents.	Due from other Banks.	Total Resources.	Capital.	Surplus.	Deposits.	Circulation.	Loans.
Commerce	$ 1,000,000	$ 1,000	$ 100,000	$ 200,000	$ 200,000	$ 100,000	$ 1,600,000	$ 300,000	$ 100,000	$ 1,000,000	$ 200,000	$ 1,000,000
Exchange	1,000,000	1,000	100,000	200,000	200,000	100,000	1,600,000	300,000	100,000	1,000,000	200,000	1,000,000
Mechanics	1,000,000	1,000	100,000	200,000	200,000	100,000	1,600,000	300,000	100,000	1,000,000	200,000	1,000,000
Merchants & Manufacturers	1,000,000	1,000	100,000	200,000	200,000	100,000	1,600,000	300,000	100,000	1,000,000	200,000	1,000,000
Citizens	1,000,000	1,000	100,000	200,000	200,000	100,000	1,600,000	300,000	100,000	1,000,000	200,000	1,000,000
Third	1,000,000	1,000	100,000	200,000	200,000	100,000	1,600,000	300,000	100,000	1,000,000	200,000	1,000,000
Iron City	1,000,000	1,000	100,000	200,000	200,000	100,000	1,600,000	300,000	100,000	1,000,000	200,000	1,000,000
Second	1,000,000	1,000	100,000	200,000	200,000	100,000	1,600,000	300,000	100,000	1,000,000	200,000	1,000,000
Fourth	1,000,000	1,000	100,000	200,000	200,000	100,000	1,600,000	300,000	100,000	1,000,000	200,000	1,000,000
Union	1,000,000	1,000	100,000	200,000	200,000	100,000	1,600,000	300,000	100,000	1,000,000	200,000	1,000,000
Pittsburgh	1,000,000	1,000	100,000	200,000	200,000	100,000	1,600,000	300,000	100,000	1,000,000	200,000	1,000,000
Allegheny	1,000,000	1,000	100,000	200,000	200,000	100,000	1,600,000	300,000	100,000	1,000,000	200,000	1,000,000
Birmingham	1,000,000	1,000	100,000	200,000	200,000	100,000	1,600,000	300,000	100,000	1,000,000	200,000	1,000,000
Total	$ 13,000,000	$ 13,000	$ 1,300,000	$ 2,600,000	$ 2,600,000	$ 1,300,000	$ 20,800,000	$ 3,900,000	$ 1,300,000	$ 13,000,000	$ 2,600,000	$ 13,000,000

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cook & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.
U. S. Bonds of 1881	113¾	113¾
U. S. Bonds of 1865	113¾	113¾
U. S. Bonds of 1864	113⅝	113⅝
U. S. Bonds of 1862	114¼	114¼
U. S. Bonds of 1865 (new)	113⅝	113⅝
U. S. Bonds of 1867	114¼	114¼
U. S. Bonds of 1868	114¾	114¾
10-408	110¾	110¾
New 6s	113¾	113¾
Gold	112	112¼
Currency 6s	113	113¼

—James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	112¼
United States 6s of 1881	115⅝
United States 5-20s of 1862	113¾
United States 5-20s of 1864	113⅝
United States 5-20s of 1865	114¼
United States 5-40s	113⅝
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1865	113¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	114¼
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	114¾
Currency Pacifics	113¾

—The *Mining Gazette* publishes some very interesting statistics with reference to the copper productions of Lake Superior in 1872, and compares the yield of the year just closing with that of 1871. The following table exhibits the productions of the mines in the copper districts for the year ending December 1:

	Tons.	Lbs.
Calumet and Hecla (about)	9,800	
Quincy	1,991	1,919
Franklin and Pewabic	30	
Houghton (eleven months)	1,800	280
Schoolcraft (ten months)	850	389
Isle Royale	81	
Concord (about)	40	
Hancock	26	
Other sources	6	
Total	12,612	519
Product in 1871	12,744	1,993
Decrease in 1872	132	1,587

NEWBERRY POINT DISTRICT.

	Tons.	Lbs.
Central	724	160
Phœnix	447	
Copper Falls	423	987
Copper Island	110	101
Cliff	74	1,061
St. Clair	13	334
Pethewick	8	146
Other sources	6	
Total	1,830	894
Product in 1871	2,340	1,391
Decrease in 1872	504	497

ONTONAGON DISTRICT. Tons. Lbs.

Ridge, Minnesota, National and others	785	1,000
Product in 1871	990	1,446
Decrease in 1872	205	446

RECAPITULATION.

	Tons.	Lbs.
Houghton county	12,612	319
Keweenaw county	1,856	894
Ontonagon county	725	1,000
Total	15,174	213
Total in 1871	16,076	743
Decrease in 1872	902	530

The table shows a decrease in the products of the mines, so far as quantity is concerned, but the profits arising from mining operations have been greater than during 1871. The latter circumstance is due to the great demand for copper, which has prevailed throughout the season, and to the fact that but a moderate amount could be obtained from all sources. The short yield of 1872 was largely caused by the strike last spring among the miners, and some circumstances of a like sequence, which diminished the production.

The total yield of Calumet and Hecla for the last twelve months are nearly 10,000 tons of mineral, representing a money value of about $5,000,000, over three millions of which is profit.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, &c., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day:

January 8, 1873.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	3:00 P.M.
Gold	113¼	113¼	113¼	113	113¼
Canton	55¾	55¾	55¾	55¾	55¾
Western Union Tel	79½	79½	79½	----	80½
Quicksilver	----	----	----	----	69¼
Pacific Mail	72¾	73¼	72	71¾	72
Adams Express	----	----	----	----	94½
Wells, Fargo Express	----	----	----	----	69¼
American Express	----	----	----	----	57½
United States Express	----	----	----	----	51
New York Central	101¾	102	102¼	101	101¾
Erie	62¾	62¾	63	62½	62¾
Michigan Central	----	----	----	----	107
Michigan Southern	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾
Illinois Central	----	----	----	----	----
Cleveland and Pittsburgh	----	----	----	----	93¼
Chicago and Northwest	81¾	----	----	----	----
Do. preferred	90¾	----	----	----	----
Rock Island	110	110	109¾	----	109¾
St. Paul	----	----	----	----	36¾
Do. preferred	----	----	----	----	67¾
Wabash	----	----	----	----	----
Do. Preferred	----	----	----	----	----
Fort Wayne	----	----	----	----	92
Ohio and Mississippi	48¾	47¾	47¾	----	47¾
Union Pacific	38¾	38¾	38¾	----	----
Chicago and Alton	----	----	----	----	----
Do. preferred	----	----	----	----	----
Boston, Hartford & Erie	8¾	----	8¾	----	8¾
Harlem	----	----	114½	----	115
New Jersey Central	----	----	----	----	----

Messrs. Robinson Bros., bankers, No. 78 Fourth avenue, furnish the following telegraphic report of quotation of active stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board to-day:

Penn's Central	87¾ Phila. and Erie
Reading	58½ Lehigh Navigation
United Co.'s of N.J., 102	Pittsburgh & Connellsville
Oil Creek & A. V. R. R.	32¾ A. V. R. R. 7-30s
Lehigh Valley R. R.	59 Central Transport'n

*Ex.—coupons.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, January 9, 1873.

REMARKS.—The market continues dull; prices being very unsatisfactory.

CRUDE.

At Parker's dealers were asking $2 40, $an advance of 8c per barrel. We did not hear of any transactions. This would be equal to about 6½c here—not a very high price for a gallon of oil.

REFINED.

The market seems to have come to a stand still. Round lots were offered at 18½@19c per gallon. These figures are pretty low. The future of oil don't look very rosy.

[By Western Union Line.]

TITUSVILLE, January 8.—Crude quiet:

The market continues inactive and closed weaker at every point on upper road. There was weaker feeling at the close, and but little business active at $2 50 for spot. There is very little doing at any point and prices are nominal. Sales:

500 bbls upper road, spot.....$2 55
500 bbls upper road, spot.....2 50
250 bbls upper road, spot.....2 50
500 bbls upper road, spot.....2 50
500 bbls upper road, spot.....2 50
1,000 bbls Oil City, spot.....2 65
500 bbls Parker's, spot.....2 20
1,500 bbls Parker's, spot.....2 30

NEW YORK, January 8, Closing 7.—Market very dull, irregular and nominal, combination price 27½c. Sale outside lot of 50,000 bbls at 24½c. Crude in bulk offering at 16½c, without business. Cases firm at 29c, with 8,000 bbls sold at this price. Naphtha quoted nominally at 16¼@16½c. Philadelphia delivering 27c and dull. No business.

PHILADELPHIA, January 8.—Market dull; spot 27c; crude 9c; cases 47.

OIL CITY, January 8.—Market dull and heavy at $2 77@2 80; lower road $2 60; upper road $2 55 @2 60.

HONESDALE, January 8.—Market quiet and no business; held at $2 50.

TITUSVILLE, January 8.—Market dull; no quotations and nothing doing.

PETROLEUM CENTER, January 8.—Market dull. Can't quote.

[By Pacific and Atlantic Telegraph Line.]

TITUSVILLE, January 8.—Market very dull and declining. There are a few regular round lots at $2 55. The refined market cannot be quoted over 27½c.

PARKER'S, January 8.—Market quiet at $2 35.

OIL CITY, January 8.—Market very quiet at $2 75 @3 00.

FOXBURG, January 8.—Market very quiet and nothing doing; buyers at $2 35.

Buffalo Live Stock Market.

BUFFALO, N. Y., January 8.—CATTLE—Receipts today, 156 loads, making a total for the week thus far of 2,264 head, or 192 cars, against 230 cars same time last week; market active at 7½c advance; about 1,400 head disposed of. Sales 112 Illinois steers, 1,164 to 1,446 lbs, at $5@5 25; 322 Indiana do, 1,064 to 1,440 lbs, at $5@5 65; 16 Indiana mixed, 1,431 lbs, at $5 12½; 85 Ohio steers, 998 to 1,343 lbs, $4@5 90; 20 Ohio cows, 1,147 lbs at $4 12½; 70 Michigan steers, 1,066 to 1,390 lbs at $4@5 75; 16 Michigan cows, 1,064 lbs, at $3 40. Sheep and lambs—Receipts to-day, 4,000 head, making a total for the week thus far of 9,000 head, against 4,600 head same time last week; market active at 50c decline on all grades from closing prices; 2,000 head disposed of. Sales 125 lbs, at 5½@— 214 Canada sheep and lambs, 109 to 110 lbs, at $6 50@7 00; 266 Indiana sheep, 77 to 91 lbs, at $5 00@6 00; 464 Ohio sheep, 83 to 93 lbs, at $5 25@6 25; 825 Michigan sheep, 74 to 89 lbs, at $5 75@6 00. Hogs—Receipts to-day, 2,000 head, making a total for the week thus far of 17,000 head, against 16,000 head same time last week; market active for light hogs at full prices; heavy hogs dragging; pens nearly cleared of stock; sales 1,500 Ohio and Indiana hogs, 200 to 223 lbs, at $4 12@4 50.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, January 8, 1873.

REMARKS.—The weather continues warm and pleasant, and country merchants are taking advantage of the same to visit the city and replenish their well nigh exhausted stocks. Trade is brightening up in all departments, and we hope ere long to see it fairly active. This will surely be the case should the closing period of the winter prove mild and harmonious not again be obstructed by ice. The receipts of grain—wheat, corn and rye in particular—continue light. Flour, though in fair receipt, falls short of the demand, and dealers have many orders ahead of their ability to fill. We may add that Western dispatches state that certain choice brands have advanced, which will cause a corresponding rise here. With regard to prices generally we have no particular change to note. Butter is in plentiful supply and prices weak and lower. Eggs are in good demand and prices still maintained. Apples are arriving freely and all prime qualities meet ready sale.

The following are the receipts of produce for the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, barrels	1,664	5,741	12,825
Apples, barrels	554	1,622	2,178
Cheese, boxes	----	118	118
Corn, sacks	1,743	1,670	2,313
Wheat, sacks	565	3,237	3,802
Barley, sacks	635	1,250	2,185
Rye, sacks	1,072	1,053	2,125
Oats, sacks	1,437	2,618	4,054
Butter, packages	1,031	457	1,488
Bacon, pieces	12,929	20,915	33,044
Bacon, thereos, Pacific	137	10	47

Below will be found the ruling wholesale rates of the market unless otherwise noted:

ASHES—There is a moderately active demand, with sales reported at 6½c for Pearls (half 1¼c pots 10c; soda ash 4¾@5c; refined 6@6½c; alkaline soda 4¾@5c; arsenic 3½@4c.

APPLES—Receipts 204 bbls. There is no change in prices, with sales choice at $3 00@3 25 ₱ bbl; common $2 00@2 25.

APPLE BUTTER—50@60c per gallon. Market quiet.

ALES—X, $9 ₱ bbl; XX, $10, ₱ bbl; India Ale, $11 ₱ bbl; Porter $10 ₱ bbl.

BUTTER—We quote prime to choice at 22@25; fair to good 18@20; common 15@17.

BEANS—Prime white hand-picked $2 15@3 00 per bushel; common $2 00.

BEESWAX—Market quiet, and prices nominally 28 @30c ₱ lb.

BANNER BAKING POWDER—Sales at $6 00 per dozen for 1 lb cans; ½ lb cans $3 25 per dozen; ¼ lb cans $1 75.

BROOM CORN—Prices nominally 4½@7c, as to quality and condition.

BACON AND PROVISIONS—The market remains unchanged, with sales at the following figures: Sugar cured hams 13½c; sugar cured shoulders 9½c; plain shoulders 6c; rib sides 8½c; clear sides 8c; breakfast bacon 11½c; dried beef 18c; mess pork $14 50; ham sausage 10c; leaf lard, in tier 8, 8½c; half bbls 9½c; pails 10c; pigs feet, in half bbls, $4 25; bbls $8 50. Receipts bacon—pieces 7,293.

COUNTRY MEATS—Hams 8c; clear sides 6½c; shoulders 5½c. Lard 7@7½c per lb.

CEMENT—Calcined plaster $4 25@4 50 per bbl; Bensaw's hydraulic cement $2 00@2 25; Louisville $2 50@2 75; Rosedale $4 00@4 25.

CANDLES—Stearine at 14¾@15c; star 21¾@22c; mould 19c ₱ lb.

CHEESE—Prime New York Goshen 16¾@17c ₱ lb; Ohio Goshen 15@15½c; Dairy 14@14½c; Factory 14¾ @15c. Receipts 118 boxes.

CIDER—Sales at $3@3 50 ₱ bbl.

CRANBERRIES—Sacks $4 75 ₱ bbl and Carey's find a ready market at $14@15 ₱ bbl; cultivated and common $6@13 ₱ bbl.

CARBON OIL—The market continues very dull, and prices have reached a very low figure; standard Benzole, tested 150 deg, is offered at 18½c at works, at 18¾@18¾c; from store, in a small way, the usual advance is obtained.

CONCENTRATED LYE—Market more active with sales at 4¾ bcase.

DAIRY FACTS—Dannels' Fair at 4@5c for apples; peaches, halves, 7@8c; blackberries 10@11c; pitted cherries 16@22c; not pitted 7@8c.

DRIED FRUIT—Sacks—The market is fully supplied, with sales at 5@5¾c ₱ lb.

EGGS—Receipts, 1,253 cases selling to the trade at 32½c ₱ lb, with the usual advance for small lots.

EGG—We quote prime fresh eggs at 32@35c; pickled 28@29c ₱ doz.

FISH—White fish $5 50 ₱ half barrel; mackerel, shore, $30@32 per barrel; No. 1 bay $17@18; No. 2 shore, medium, $19; extra $21; No. 3 large, fine and packages, $14; trout and $7 in bbls; new cod $6 @6½ for medium; new Labrador split $8 50@9 00; new Labrador $7 50.

FLOUR—Market very active and receipts largely increased. Dealers are now filling their orders as fast as the goods arrive. Owing to the late advance in winter wheat, prices on the best brands will likely

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY January 9, 1873.

RECEIPTS.

	Cattle, No.	Hogs, No.	Sheep, No.	Hors, No.	M ules, No.
	head.	head.	head.	head.	head.
Thursday, Jan. 2	1,200	3,000	800	20	----
Friday, Jan. 3	1,040	4,800	2,000	185	24
Saturday, Jan. 4	640	2,900	2,200	60	45
Monday, Jan. 6	700	4,900	1,000	45	17
Tuesday, Jan. 7	660	2,700	1,000	50	----
Wednesday, Jan. 8	260	1,800	400	----	----
Total	4,462	18,700	7,800	165	86
Last week	3,925	1,200	9,300	60	17

SHIPMENTS.

	Cattle, No.	Hogs, No.	Sheep, No.	Hors, No.	M ules, No.
	head.	head.	head.	head.	head.
Thursday, Jan. 2	1,2831	2,100	1,000	151	24
Friday, Jan. 3	1,040	4,300	2,000	185	24
Saturday, Jan. 4	640	2,900	2,200	60	45
Monday, Jan. 6	700	4,900	1,000	45	17
Tuesday, Jan. 7	660	2,700	1,000	50	----
Wednesday, Jan. 8	260	1,800	400	----	----
Total	4,462	18,700	7,800	165	86
Last week	3,925	1,200	9,300	60	17

Cattle.

During the first part of the week the receipts were inclined light. On Monday and Tuesday not much was done in the way of trade, for the few buyers here then were not disposed to purchase, as holders were holding firm, with the expectation of a light run. On the other hand buyers looked for increased receipts, which very often break the market, causing lower figures to rule. On Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning the number of buyers was increased considerably, and we noticed some who have not been here for some months. With the increased attendance and arrival of a more favorable character from Eastern markets, the feeling is better. The receipts to this time have been light, and in quality embraces all grades. There is at present a couple of good droves of heavy shipping cattle from Ohio and Illinois on sale. The owner is aware that the run of cattle is not heavy, and is holding the cattle at a pretty stiff figure, and says that unless he realizes it he will ship further east. This same feeling is ruling other holders of cattle and it causes a firm market, for no buyers pay the prices holders will ship east on their own account. Some dealers say there is a slight advance over last week's rates, while others say there is a firmness and upward tendency but as yet no quotable advance. At this writing it looks as if the trade will be active to-day, as buyers are bidding if for low prices, are coming to the conclusion that it will be impossible to purchase cattle at figures lower than last week. We think that prices are pretty much the same on common grades, and a shade higher on good to prime cattle.

Hogs

The number of hogs offering at the present time is small, but good ones when offered find a ready buyer. Yesterday Bimeler, Lay & Co. sold for J. Reed a prime Ohio bull for $6 60 per 100 lbs. Farmers who have good hogs can find a ready sale for them.

Fresh Cows.

The number of fresh cows offered this week was small. There is not as much inquiry for them as was a few weeks ago, and we have to report trade slow, with prices off from $5 to $10 per head.

Prices.

Extra 1,500 lbs steers, fine and smooth, $7; extra 1,400 lbs steers, fine and smooth, $6 50 to $6 75; extra 1,400 lbs steers, fine and smooth, $6 00 to $6 25; prime 1,200 lbs steers, fine and smooth, $5 25 to $5 75; prime 1,100 lbs steers, fine and smooth, $5 00; prime 1,000 lbs steers, fine and smooth, $4 75 to $5 00; common $3 75 to $4 00; bulls $2 50 to $3 50; cows $2 25 to $4 00; stockers $3 75 to $4 00.

Hogs.

At the time of closing our last report trade was slow, with 4c about the highest figure for prime heavy hogs, and $4 15 for light smooth pigs. On Friday and Saturday the run was light, and with favorable reports from the East, the market took a decided upward tendency. On Friday sales were made at figures 10c per 100 higher than ruled at the first of the week, and trade closed on Saturday afternoon firm, with all the stock in the yards sold. On Monday we had a light and prices better, the advance being about 10c over last week's rates. On Tuesday and Wednesday the runs were still light and the market ruled active, prices creeping upward slowly but steadily, and the market closing firm. To-day the run is light and trade active. Prime light pigs, weighing about 150 lbs, are the best sale, and are disposed of soon after arrival at figures ranging from 4c to 4¼c, an advance of fully 50c per hundred. Prime Philadelphia hogs sell at about $4 30, and buyers for that market are endeavoring to make a stand at that figure, unwilling to go higher; but this will depend on the run, for if it continues light, prices will undoubtedly go higher.

Prices.

Extra Philadelphia, $4 30; prime do $4 20 to $4 25; Yorkers $4 16 to $4 20; light do $4 40 to $4 50.

Sheep.

The run of sheep this week is considered a fair one for this market. Trade opened with a fair number of buyers from Philadelphia and New York, but on Tuesday not many remained in the yards. The market opened up better on Wednesday, and buyers took hold freely, and sales were active throughout the day, and prices are reported to be from 10c to 25c higher.

The quality of the stock on sale is fair, and good sheep are most sought after. H. Erisman purchased for New York several fine droves which will be found in the sales below. At this writing the market is firm and steady, with every prospect of closing at the last of the week with all the stock cleaned up.

Prices.

Extra 100 lbs, fine wool, $6 25 to $6 50; extra 100 lbs, open wool, $6 00; prime 90 lbs, fine wool, $5 75 to $6 00; prime 90 lbs, fine wool, $5 25 to $5 50; common, $5 00 to $4 50.

Cattle Sales.

Following will be found sales for the week ending to-day, as taken from the books of dealers:

Cattle.

	Bullocks, steers & co. sold				
No.	Weight.	Price.	No.	Weight.	Price.
16	19,220	$5 75	18	19,380	$5 75
19	19,020	5 75	19	19,020	5 75
19	19,000	5 75	4	3,920	4 00
4	3,920	3 80	4	3,840	3 80
1	1,090	5 40	4	3,150	3 50
4	3,840	3 80	4	3,840	3 80
18	17,820	5 80	21	20,580	5 80
18	17,820	5 80	21	20,580	5 80
18	16,110	5 60	18	16,110	5 60
18	20,160	5 90	18	19,620	4 00
18	20,160	5 90	18	19,620	4 00
18	21,420	5 80	21	25,480	6 00
18	21,420	5 80	21	25,480	6 00
18	18,000	5 80	18	18,000	5 80
18	20,880	5 85	18	18,000	3 85
18	20,880	5 85	18	18,000	3 85
18	6,050	3 85	21	8,820	4 10
18	11,080	3 85	21	8,820	4 10
18	66,110	4 20	87	36,240	4 10
18	76,800	4 20	87	36,240	4 10
18	15,740	4 60	86	39,020	4 25
18	11,780	4 60	86	39,020	4 25
18	15,320	4 25	24	6,240	4 10
18	15,320	4 25	24	6,240	4 10
18	20,160	4 60	21	8,820	4 10
18	20,160	4 60	21	8,820	4 10
18	18,000	4 60	21	8,820	4 10
18	20,880	4 60	21	8,820	4 10

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1873.

THE County Commissioners on Thursday, designated the COMMERCIAL and *Dispatch* as the papers to do the county printing for the ensuing year. This is a just and proper recognition of the COMMERCIAL as a reliable Republican journal, and we heartily thank the County Commissioners for this mark of their confidence and approval.

UPWARDS of fifty-two million dollars of dividends, on government bonds, bank stocks, railroad and other corporations, payable on and after the first of this year—not to speak of a very large amount of manufacturing and other stock dividends—will have been paid out to the people by the close of the present month. The release of so much available capital ought to materially help general business, as well as to believe the existing stringency in money, and that, too, without delay.

PRESIDENT GRANT's declared intention of issuing an order, to take effect at the beginning of his next term, prohibiting Federal officers from holding State offices, affords general satisfaction to the people, judging from the expressions of approval which the announcement has elicited from the press. It seems to be unanimously agreed that in adopting this course the President will give satisfactory evidence of the sincerity of his promise to serve the people and the Government in the most effective manner possible.

THE first election under the Local Option law took place in the strong Democratic county of Clearfield on Friday last, December 29, 1872, that being the day for the election of township officers in that county. The majority against license is over six hundred, and this result in a county which, more than any other in the State, is slavishly devoted to the Democratic party, is an evidence that this is, in no respect, a party or political question. The voters have acted on it outside and independent of all partisan considerations.

ANOTHER important step in the direction of the practical reform of the civil service will be the order, which it is said the President has decided on issuing within a short time, to take effect from the commencement of his new term, notifying all persons holding United States commissions, that the acceptance or holding of office under any State authority is inconsistent with the scope of their official duty, and an improper interference with State concerns; that the holding of such office will be deemed the vacation of the positions held by them under Federal authority, and that their successors will be appointed. The inspiring cause of the order, it is stated, is the fact that in a number of the Southern States a considerable proportion of the State officials and members of the Legislature are persons holding official appointment by the President, a fact which has given rise to not a little of the political irritation and discontent existing in those quarters.

THE official figures of our national census for 1870, just promulgated, show that the following States maintained the same rank at that date which they held in 1860: New York first; Pennsylvania, second; Ohio, third; Illinois, fourth; Indiana, sixth. Virginia, which was fifth in 1860, is now tenth, and Missouri, which in 1860 was eighth, is now fifth. Massachusetts maintains her old rank of seventh, and Tennessee drops from tenth to ninth. Most of the Eastern States have fallen behind somewhat, while nearly all the Western States have advanced considerably. The population of our own Commonwealth is 3,521,951, which is an increase of 615,736, or twenty-one per cent., during the past decade, against an increase of 502,024, or thirteen per cent., on the part of New York during the same period. The entire increase of the United States from 1860 to 1870 was 7,115,050, of which this State furnished almost one-twelfth, contributing a larger actual increase than any other State in the Union with the exception of Illinois.

AND now another trafficking politician has badly burnt his fingers. It seems that Governor REED, of Florida, failing to obtain the Republican nomination for Governor at the last election, thereupon set about to secure a seat in Congress, by concocting a scheme for the election of a Democratic Governor and his own return to the United States Senate; in pursuance of which plot he not only threw the entire official influence of the Executive office into Democratic hands, but even bargained with that party for a fraudulent count by the State canvassers. Fortunately, however, the majority of the Republican candidate for Governor was too large to be successfully manipulated; so that his treachery has harmed nobody except himself. In politics, as in everything else, honesty, in the end, *is found to be the only successful policy*, as witness WARMOUTH, CAMERON, DOOLITTLE, and a score of others—some of them nearer home—overturned by their perfidy to the great party of which they assumed to be leaders. The moral is decidedly instructive.

THIRTEEN United States Senators are yet to be chosen to complete the filling of the twenty-five vacancies which will occur in the Senate on the 4th of next March. The States which are yet to elect are Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas, Nevada, Louisiana, Florida, Alabama and Georgia. One of the most gratifying facts connected with the subject of these impending elections, several of which will probably occur during the present week, is the certainty that Senator TRUMBULL, of Illinois, be retained to private life, to be ill-succeeded by Governor OGLESBY, one of the ablest and best members of the Republican party; while the probable defeat of that other coalition malcontent, Senator BLAIR, of Missouri, is hardly less cause for satisfaction among all true friends of order, progress and good government. Fate seems to have made the recreancy of these men to the great party that once honored them, an instrument to scourge them, and few will be inclined to dispute the justice of the retribution.

THAT the Louisiana anarchy has to a greater or less extent affected the business interests of New Orleans there can be little question; but that the currents of trade are but half as sluggish and stagnant as Northern Democratic oracles would have us believe, is sufficiently disproved by the statements of the papers of that city. The New Orleans *Times*, a bitter opponent of the Republican party, says that fifty millions of dollars of cotton alone have been received there during the present season; and that, while the political troubles have most likely induced people who have shared in the profits of these large receipts to hoard their portion thereof, yet the earnings must come out before long, making trade prosperous and brisk; and another New Orleans paper calls attention to the fact that last week there were fifteen steamships due at that port from Europe, while there was not one during the entire year before "the great disaster" of secession in 1861. Let that city and State squelch the reactionary agitators who have produced the present unsettled condition of political affairs, and its commerce and business will soon experience a general revival.

TWO IMPORTANT expeditions in the interest of science are about to leave England—one to search out the Arctic, and the other the Antarctic region. The Challenger starts upon no ordinary cruise. She is to spend twelve entire months in thoroughly exploring the great basin of the Atlantic; thence fight her way to the Southern pole; thence to Australia and New Zealand; through the coral ocean to Japan, and home by way of the Pacific. A second vessel is to be dispatched to the north coast of Greenland, to make its way to KANE's open polar sea. MR. GLADSTONE is tendering his aid to this expedition, and will endeavor to secure a national appropriation sufficient to defray the expense. Should he succeed, the English government will then have conjointly at work an expedition at each of the poles, the results of which will be of the greatest scientific value. A map of the ocean depths, a chart of the great deep-sea currents, the solution of problems in magnetism, and a better geography of the poles, are some of the objects sought to be attained. The Challenger will be provided with a vast store of scientific apparatus, with photographers, chemists and naturalists upon her staff, and will be three years in making the voyage.

A MATTER of considerable importance to the business classes of the country is the decision of the Internal Revenue Department to suspend action on all abatement and refunding claims under the revenue acts, until after the decision of the Supreme Court, in the case of Collector BARNES against the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, in which a reargument has been ordered by the Supreme Court, to be had on the 6th of February next. As the decision of Mr. Justice STRONG in the court below was sustained in the Supreme Court by a divided court, the final adjudication of the question will depend upon the views of the incoming justice, Hon. WARD HUNT. The motion for reargument in this case was made by the Attorney-General, upon the plea that the Treasury Department as well as claimants were entitled to an absolute decision of the question. Upwards of three millions of dollars are involved. The decision given early in December only passed upon the six cases actually before the court, and obliged each claimant to bring suit against the Collector. It is said that the Department is well satisfied that many claims against banks, railroads and insurance companies, since 1869, as tax on dividends and coupons, are untenable. Hence the action in question.

CONDEMNATION O STOKES.

Acquittal of murderers has been so long the rule in New York city and has seemed to be so manifestly the established order of things, that the condemnation of STOKES will, no doubt, be heard of with very general surprise. On his first trial the disagreement of the jury appeared to the distant public less remarkable than the published statements concerning the views of its members and concerning the debates in which they endeavored to influence one another's convictions. Though plain men of humble intellectual pretensions, they were evidently men of rather more than average intelligence, for the most part, if not all of them, citizens actively engaged in business pursuits which require and tend to cultivate habits of reflection and alertness of mind within a certain range, and there is no reason to suppose them more destitute than others of a sense of their responsibility as members of society.

And yet so far as we can remember, in the explanations which several of those jurors gave of the reasons which determined their judgment in the case, there was no word to indicate a recognition of the higher and more impressive obligations involved in the official or representative position which they had lately filled. If such motives were duly felt, it was certainly remarkable that, in common justice to themselves, they failed to give any hint of the fact. When such motives are not felt, it is not only not strange but it is most natural that men called upon to decide the question of life or death as regards a fellow creature should confound subordinate and perhaps insignificant details with essential facts, and thus justify their preference of mercy to justice by ignoring the real question submitted to their consideration.

It cannot be denied that there may seem to be some ground for the allegation certain to be made, if not already made by the convict or his friends, in this case that, STOKES, in being condemned, falls a victim to panic, and the assertion will be accepted as true by many. And it is certain that, so far as such a judgment may appear to be warranted by circumstances, the sentence and, if carried out, its execution, will be divested of their proper moral effect. Should this result follow, it will be only one of the deplorable consequences of the relaxation of law which has prevailed for so many years in New York. A repetition of facts in illustration is not necessary; they are familiar to the entire nation. The dangerous classes expressed a mere platitude, a truth too obvious to be even exciting, when their representative, REYNOLDS (if that was his name), quietly remarked that "hanging was played out in New York." Respectable citizens were more shocked than surprised at the cynically candid declaration, as a slight exercise of reflection sufficed to enable them to gather the facts upon which the audacious induction rested. Persons not belonging to the dangerous classes, at least not recognized as such, but conscious of the infirmity which grows from unbridled passion, and strongly impressed by experience with the convenience of being one's own lawgiver and executive, often took natural comfort in a state of affairs so well adapted to their possible wants. Feeling that they might find full scope for their energies to adopt decisive measures with their enemies and persecutors, cheerful confidence must have sprung up within them in anticipation of the impunity which the experience of so many others authorized them to expect, in a contingency which grew daily more probable with the growing intensity of their hate, or with the increasing bitterness and provocations of their enemies or rivals.

In this statement, it is easy to perceive that the community, in an obvious sense became, or at any rate may have been *particeps criminis*, an accomplice in the series of murders and homicides by which the people of New York have at length been aroused from their indifference to a sense of the perils which are its manifest results. Even for the brilliantly infamous and infamously brilliant career of the man who at last perished by the pistol of Stokes, the New York public were undoubtedly to a great extent responsible. New Yorkers of unquestionable intelligence and well acquainted with other countries, have repeatedly said that there is no other city in Christendom wherein FISK could have performed the part which he performed in the American metropolis. He was incarnate lawlessness, and for years ruled the Courts and the Legislature with absolute power. And is it not an indisputable truth that his death *seems* to have been not only the cessation of a conspicuous metropolitan or even national infamy, but a benefaction almost instantaneous in its wide-reaching effects? True, such results, assuming them to be facts, constitute no mitigation of the crime of his murderer, at least in the eye of the law but does no responsibility for the crime adhere to the population which strongly yearned only tolerated but dumbly admired the man whose character and acts were such as to enable his enemy, with so much probability, to think that, in taking him off untimely, he might be not only gratifying his own enmity but fulfilling the office of a public benefactor.

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

The organization of the Centennial Commission, and its auxiliary body, the Centennial Board of Finance, has been at last completed and under such auspices as promise complete success. There has been, throughout, in the initiate action of these organizations, not only great energy displayed but infinite tact and good sense. In the respect of waking at once a local and national feeling, this tact has most clearly shown itself. In this, as in every social or economical or political action, the true principle must of course be a local one. It would have been preposterous, or to use a homelier word, "shabby" had Philadelphia contented herself with asking others—the country and the world at large—to pour the treasures of art and industry into her lap simply because the classic spot to be illustrated happened to be within her limits. No such appeal would for a moment be listened to. It required very little discernment to perceive this, but it has been fully realized, and the idea of "Independence," in the first place, as a municipality, and then by the energy and liberality of her citizens has exhibited a zeal and practical earnestness which is the best pledge of success. This done, and bravely done, she looks ahead and asks, almost demands, the aid of the whole community to make worthy of the nation the celebration of the nation's hundredth birthday. Such an appeal promises to be cordially responded to. No cloud of jealousy seems to darken the vision even of rival communities. They look upon it kindly. This is very notably the case in the cordial expressions of the New York press, where the leading papers of all parties found time, even in the midst of a heated political canvass to speak words of encouragement. So it is elsewhere. So, we sincerely believe, it will be every where.

This being the promise from remote quarters, we should be unfaithful to ourselves, citizens of the second city of Pennsylvania, and deeply interested in industrial exhibitions, and most especially in those of the future, did we not do, not only something, but much. We call upon Pittsburgh and her public-spirited citizens to show that, now, indeed, we are of one heart with Philadelphia. What has protected industry done for Philadelphia in the last hundred years that has not a thousand fold been done for Pittsburgh? In 1776 Philadelphia was a city with all the resources and refinements of a city. In 1776 Pittsburgh was but a frontier post, nay not even that, for the Indian and the enemy were massed between the Ohio and the Delaware. It was in 1778 that a great military expedition marched northwardly from Philadelphia to fight the savages this side of the lakes. We had but lately been "Fort Duquesne," and were then "Fort Pitt" rather than Pittsburgh. Then came Independence, but it required more than that to rescue us from danger and obscurity and insignificance. The first great start was when the purchase of Louisiana opened the affluents which form the Ohio to the Gulf of Mexico. It dates from the time of our own JAMES Ross who lived to set the next great era in our local story when the union of the Atlantic with the Ohio by a navigable canal, was planned and consummated. In 1825, JAMES Ross welcomed DE WITT CLINTON to Pittsburgh. In 1825, the Internal Improvement policy was inaugurated. Nearly a half a century more has elasped, and we are—what we are; and being what we are, prosperous, rich, contented, shall we not pause in the active race and help our brethern who appeal to us in doing honor to the past, and that great event of the past out of which all our prosperity has sprung?

We appeal then to the pride of Pittsburgh, which can carry into any industrial exhibition as rich trophies of mechanical and manufacturing skill as any community in the land. Let us at once—the rich out of their accretions, the poor out of their pittance, for shares can be had for a mere trifle—send to our friends in Philadelphia, in the form of a liberal contribution, the proof that we feel as they do. We do not for a moment doubt it will be done, and trust that those who have the matter in charge will lose no time in furnishing facilities to make Pittsburgh do what she honestly intends to do.

A FEW days ago we cited a couple of decisions, one by an Illinois court and the other by the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, touching the responsibility of railroads as common carriers for damages sustained by shippers, notwithstanding that the latter may have given written releases from such liability, and for losses arising from the destruction of goods placed in storage while awaiting transhipment from one line to another. As further evidence of the growing tendency of the Courts to hold these corporations to proper accountability, the following decision of the Supreme Court of Ohio, rendered a few days ago, concerning a portion of their duties as common carriers, may be instanced in point. The Court held that a common carrier who undertakes to transport goods over the whole or any part of his own route, and then to forward them to a designated destination beyond, is bound to transmit with their delivery to the carrier next *en route* all special instructions received by him from the consignor; and in default thereof in any material or substantive particular, must stand responsible for and make good the loss to which such negligence shall have contributed. It was held, further, that marks or labels on the packages delivered do not supply the omission of such instructions from the accompanying shipping bills, where they are shown not to have come to the actual knowledge of the next succeeding carrier or his agent, charged with the duty of receiving and forwarding such bills. At this rate of progress it is reasonable to presume that corporations themselves will presently be brought to understand that the people have some rights which they are bound to respect.

A POSSIBLE COLLISION AFTER ALL.

Meteors, on the authority of astronomers expected in unusual numbers during last November, were seen in such multitudes in various parts of the world as to surprise even the astronomers. Readers of the newspapers have of course met with frequent mention of the phenomenon. Father SECCHI, of the Observatory at Rome, favored by the clear Italian sky, with the aid of his assistants, within the time of five hours on the 27th of November at night counted fourteen thousand "falling stars," as they are popularly called. "It sometimes seemed to be snowing," the Father says, and he states that about half-past ten o'clock a splendid meteor was observed which left behind it a track visible for three minutes. Coming nearer home, some readers no doubt, recollect the account given in the Louisville papers of a remarkable meteor seen at that place on the evening of the 12th of November. It was of astonishing size and beauty, and it exploded with a resounding report so many years in New York. A repetition of facts in illustration is not necessary; they are familiar to the entire nation. The dangerous classes expressed a mere platitude, a truth too obvious to be even exciting, when their representative, REYNOLDS (if that was his name), quietly remarked that "hanging was played out in New York." Respectable citizens were more shocked than surprised at the cynically candid declaration, as a slight exercise of reflection sufficed to enable them to gather the facts upon which the audacious induction rested. Persons not belonging to the dangerous classes, at least not recognized as such, but conscious of the infirmity which grows from unbridled passion, and strongly impressed by experience with the convenience of being one's own lawgiver and executive, often took natural comfort in a state of affairs so well adapted to their possible wants. Feeling that they might find full scope for their energies to adopt decisive measures with their enemies and persecutors, cheerful confidence must have sprung up within them in anticipation of the impunity which the experience of so many others authorized them to expect, in a contingency which grew daily more probable with the growing intensity of their hate, or with the increasing bitterness and provocations of their enemies or rivals.

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A CORRESPONDENT writing to the Cologne *Gazette* from Hong Kong says that, of all the foreigners in China, the French are the most detested. It seems that, during the war waged by France and England against the Chinese, the French soldiers made themselves peculiarly odious to the Celestials by the attentions with which they sought to honor the women. True to their respective reputations, one for gallantry and the other for love of money, while the Briton was occupied in looting for hidden treasure, the Gaul was equally industrious and daring in the pursuit of concealed and veiled ladies. As it is polution for a Chinese lady to be even seen by a European, many of the class killed themselves in consequence, and the effect has been to intensify the hatred with which the Chinese already regarded the French on account of their decided interposition in support of their missionaries. A remarkable combination of causes. According to this same correspondent, the English rank next to the French in unpopularity, while Americans are popular, "though last year the foolish expedition to Coren somewhat diminished their influence." We are farther told what is probable enough, that, of all foreign nations represented in China, the German ranks highest in Chinese estimation. Germans are found as landed soldiers in the country, or bombarded one of their cities, or interfered with the people in any way. And the Celestials having heard of their victory over the French, besides regard them as avengers of the wrongs inflicted by France upon China. In conclusion, this correspondent strongly recommends the Berlin government "to act in future with the United States in all Asiatic questions," as he feels sure that, on "every point of importance in Asiatic territory, the conflict between America and England for the predominance of the seas will be fought out. The struggle," he predicts, "will not be so warm on the Thames or the Hudson as in Eastern Asia; and in another five-and-twenty years the center of gravity of the United States will rather be on the Pacific than on the Atlantic. The sympathies and the interests of Germany under such circumstances clearly point to an understanding with America."

THOSE Modoc Indians, with whom the government is just now at war, though a relatively small and feeble tribe, have long been more troublesome than any other members of their race in Southern Oregon. Having their principal settlement, if one may so call it, at or near the place where Lost river empties into the Tule lake, they have derived their subsistence from hunting, fishing and stealing from the white residents least remote from their abodes. The male members of their band number somewhere about four hundred, who look up to a certain "Captain JACK" as their chief, who among the white settlers enjoys the reputation of being very brave and very impudent. Their removal from the neighborhood of the white settlements was absolutely necessary, as the Indians showed an evidently increasing purpose to make themselves as disagreeable and as dangerous as possible. The error of the authorities seems to have consisted in the neglect to ascertain the real disposition of the red men. Hence the first appeal made to them to withdraw to their reservation was misunderstood as well as disregarded, and even the next attempt to remove them bore no proportion to the difficulty of the thing to be achieved. Hence the insignificant military force, and the failure to take even ordinary precautions against surprise. The result has been needless loss of life on the part of the soldiers, while the entire population of a settlement have been driven from their homes, and some have been killed. And this is not the worst, as it is understood that Indian bands from whom no trouble was apprehended, have become excited by the Modoc movement and threaten to join in it against the government. A very small number of the Modocs are under arms, but they occupy ground which gives them great advantages in defense. Mistakes of the kind committed in this business by the army help to bring disrepute upon the peace policy of the Administration.

THE New York *Commercial Advertiser*, despite the fact that its age is nearly four score, manages to keep pace with the most enterprising of its younger metropolitan contemporaries in everything which contributes to the making of a good newspaper. It has, with the passing away of the old year, put off its old clothes, and comes to us bright and sparkling with new type. Its columns bristle with the latest news, served up in a crisp and palatable style. It deserves and is meeting with great success.

A NEW galvanic battery has lately been invented. It consists of a vessel in which are contained a plate of lead and a plate of zinc. The lead reaches to the bottom, while the zinc is but half as long. The bottom of the vessel is covered with a layer of red oxide of lead, and the exciting fluid is water containing ten per cent. of sal ammoniac. The electro-motive power of this battery is estimated at one-third of that of a Bunsen cell. Its internal resistance is very slight, and it is said to be very constant. It has the merit of cheapness.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The tonnage of vessels in process of construction on the Delaware river, mainly iron, amounts in the aggregate to forty-one thousand five hundred tons.

About fifty Alsatians and Lorrainers went before the French Consul in Philadelphia New Year's day, and declared their intention of remaining French citizens, in accordance with the Prussian treaty.

The joint committee on direct trade and immigration appointed by the last Georgia Legislature have reported bills to encourage direct steam communication with Europe, the organization of a bureau, &c.

A Connecticut inventor has patented a machine capable of turning out four thousand keys a day, which he thinks will be very useful if somebody else can invent an equally rapid way of making locks to fit them.

The astronomers designated by France, Germany, England and Russia to observe, in 1874, the transit of Venus, will meet next month in Congress at Paris in order to determine the exact points of observation.

A convention of the delegates from the Southern and Western States is called to meet at Augusta, Georgia, February 2, in support of the Atlantic and Great Western Canal project.

The following instance of courage during a small pox scare is worthy of special note: Walking along the street one day, a Boston lady felt sure that she had received the infection from a passing person, and wrote a note to her family stating the trouble, and that she was going to reside in an unoccupied house at Billreica till the danger was over. She received two attendants, took possession of the house, in ten days was taken down with the disease, passed through the various stages, recovered, and is now at home, happy that her family have escaped the disease through her devotion.

Can steam ignite? is a great question now, and is one which seems not unreasonable—that steam pipes will not directly set fire to adjacent woodwork, but beyond question do dry the wood until it is inflammable to the last degree.

A lady, upon whom a Professor of the University of Naples has twice performed the operation of transfusion of blood direct from the artery of a lamb, is experiencing great benefit from it. The Professor has been requested to send an account of this important operation to the Medical Scientific Academy of Paris, and also to that of St. Petersburg.

The hide of the great "war elephant," Romeo, formerly the property of Adam Forepaugh, has been tanned in the most approved style, and will occupy no little space in the collection of curiosities of the Chicago Academy of Sciences. The hide contains 212 square feet, weight 743 pounds, and average thickness three-quarters of an inch. During the process of tanning the services of eighteen men were required to handle it, while simmering in the vats.

Two Chicago children, boys, aged six and three years, whose holiday supply of sweetmeats had been exhausted, went skirmishing through the closets in the house for a new stock. The came across a bottle of belladonna pills, done up in the seductive homeopathic style, and immediately began feasting thereon, and did not stop until the bottle was empty, and they had eaten enough of the drug to kill them. Fortunately, their mother discovered what they had done, a physician was summoned, emetics administered, and now, though quite sick, the enterprising youngsters will recover.

It is proposed to convert the basement rooms of the churches of Cincinnati into places of refuge during the remainder of the winter for the homeless poor, who are ordinarily consigned to the unwholesome and inadequate stationhouses.

Great praise has been awarded the people of Noble county, Ohio, by reason of the fact that there was not a single dram shop to be found within its borders. It now appears that the people avoid the necessity of closing the shops by dealing all their drinking at the drug stores. So it is a simple matter of definition. Your call your dram shop a drug store, and there you are.

Between two and three millions of capital are invested in the seed business in this country, and the annual trade turns over not less than five million dollars. It has shared the growth and change of the last quarter of a century, and now has locked hands with the advancing civilization of the country.

Milwaukee is a progressive city. It has shipped, this year, wheat and flour to the amount of 17,633,821 bushels. Its manufactures are claimed to have equalled $70,000,000, which iron and lager beer are the largest, the former yielding $4,000,000; the other, $3,000,000.

A married woman on the stage exercises less magnetism over an audience than a single woman does; the fact that she belongs to another, that her brightest glances, sweetest dimples, and most musical tones are for him, unconsciously diminishes her influence. What were called "Nilsson" watches formerly had a great sale in Paris since the Swedish cantatrice took a husband their demand has so sensibly diminished that the proprietor has been compelled to change their name.

The first conviction under the new Illinois liquor law has just been secured. A saloon keeper was indicted on two counts; one for selling liquor to a person while intoxicated, and the other for selling liquor to an habitual drunkard. After an animated contest the defendant was found guilty on both counts.

The island of San Juan and the other small adjacent islands that have been in dispute between this country and Great Britain, are now jurisdictionally attached to Washington Territory.

Honesty is the best policy. Chicago's sharp "grain corner" practice of last August has had the effect to materially reduce the movement of wheat at that point during 1872, as compared with the year before. The decrease in the receipts is nearly two million bushels, and in the shipments, six hundred thousand bushels.

The experiment of postal cards, which our government is about introducing, is pronounced a failure in England. For private purposes they are said to be useless, while in other respects it is affirmed they have become a scandalous abuse, and are used for the worst of purposes.

About the only luxury from which California has heretofore been debarred, is that of oysters. It is now proposed to supply this omission by planting Eastern oysters. Oysters can be imported to San Francisco at a cheaper rate than Eastern oysters can be purchased in New York. On the Mexican coast almost every bay, inlet and estuary abounds in oysters of a large size, and equal in flavor to those of the Atlantic coast, where they spawn, mature and die undisturbed by man.

New York city is said to be rapidly losing its cotton trade through the depredations of wharf-thieves, with whom the police are said to be in league.

An extensive bed of iron ore has just been discovered in Washington county, Maryland, which officers of the Smithsonian Institution have declared to obtain about fifty-five per cent. of pure iron.

Some time ago a suit was instituted by a Connecticut military company to recover a twenty-five cents fine from a member. It has just resulted in a judgment for the company, thus establishing the right of military companies to impose and collect fines.

A terrible fight recently occurred in San Francisco, between a man named Krager and a clerk in his employ. The peculiarity of this combat was that the two parties were on excellent terms, and the only object of their struggle was to prevent Krager from being injured. He was determined to cut his throat, and his clerk was determined that he should do no such thing.

Chicago dedicated its free library and reading room New Year's day. At present the library has between three and four thousand volumes, but it is expected that by the end of the year it will possess thirty or forty thousand. In time that city expects to become the literary headquarters of the Northwest.

According to the *Herald of Health* the ratio of infant mortality is greater in Chicago than in any other city in the United States. Perhaps the babies are to be congratulated—that is to say, if residence in that city were the only other alternative.

Pisciculture has been extensively followed, this year, and as an immense quantity of fish seed of various kinds has been planted in the waters of almost every part of the country, so that in a short time we may look for cheap salmon and cheaper shad.

The number of hops packed in the West last year is estimated at 5,670,000. A large number of hops remain unkilled, that couldn't be eaten if they had been killed, but they could have been packed away.

There are about two or three thousand buffalo hunters now pursuing game in Western Kansas, and they average bringing down about fifteen buffalo daily. One man lately killed one hundred in a day. The hides and meat brought him the handsome sum of three hundred dollars. Notwithstanding the immense business which is being done, there seems to be no diminution in their number, and trains are frequently stopped by them.

Mrs. Lydia Sherman, the Connecticut Borgia, has made a full confession of her crimes, which will not, however, be made public until after her sentence to the penitentiary for life next week.

PERSONAL.

Information from Missouri indicates that the friends of Hon. Truston Polk are concentrating for the purpose of electing him to the United States Senate, as successor to General Blair. Mr. Polk was Senator at the time of the rebellion. He cast his lot with the South, but after the surrender accepted the result in good faith, returned to his home in St. Louis, and entered upon the practice of his profession, and has not since taken any part in politics. Mr. Polk is eminent in his profession at the bar, and has been successful in accumulating a fortune, being now numbered among the most wealthy citizens of St. Louis. His moral character is unexceptionable.

Alexander Humster, a negro barber of Portsmouth, Ohio, has come out as a sculptor, and threatens to rival Edmonia Lewis.

In Dickens's "American Notes," written in 1842, the great novelist dwelt upon the melancholy condition of the convicts in the Philadelphia penitentiary, who are compelled to pass their lives in solitary confinement. Mr. Dickens instanced the case of one Charles Langheimer, who was never permitted to see anything but the cold stone walls of his dungeon, conjectured that he could not possibly live in the cell more than five or six years, and entered in it a prediction to that effect. But Dickens is dead, and Mr. Charles Langheimer still inhabits the cell in which Dickens left him. He is seventy years old, is well and hearty, has spent more than half his life in solitary confinement, and says he prefers that manner of life to any other.

The marriage is announced at Annapolis, Md., of Miss Louisa Anderson, of Staten Island, to James Buchanan Henry, of Annapolis. Mr. Henry is a nephew of the late ex-President, after whom he was named, and, with his cousin, Miss Harriet Lane, was a member of the bachelor statesman's family at the fine old homestead of "Wheatland," near Lancaster, in this State. He was private secretary to Mr. Buchanan during his Presidential term, and has since then been established in Annapolis in the practice of law.

The venerable Madame Bonaparte, who has been in feeble health for some time past, is now very much worse, and her recovery is doubtful. Madame Bonaparte was married to Jerome Bonaparte, the youngest brother of Napoleon) afterward King of Westphalia), in Baltimore, December 25, in 1803. Her legal name is Mrs. Elizabeth Patterson.

Mr. Ronayne, the newly elected successor of the late John Francis Maguire in the parliamentary representation of the city of Cork, is a civil engineer by profession and in early life—say twenty to twenty-five years ago—was engaged for a considerable time in hydraulic work in California.

Gen. Joseph R. Hawley, editor of the Hartford *Courant*, and member of Congress elect, was admitted, on examination of faith, as a member of the Congregational church, at Hartford, on Sunday last.

There was a tremendous audience at Ford's Grand Opera House, Baltimore, Md., on New Year's evening to witness Joe Jefferson's reappearance on the stage in his role as the quaint character of Rip Van Winkle. The audience was very fashionable, and Mr. Jefferson's reception one that will long be remembered by him.

The *Nation* is authority for the statement that Professor Tyndall intends to carry no money away with him from the United States. Whatever he receives over and above his expenses he increases by hand over to some scientific body in this country.

Quite a number of weddings will come off at Washington in the course of the next few weeks. The first will be that of General Foster, of the United States Engineers, to Miss Nannie Davis, of Washington. General Foster is a grandfather, and the lady whom he has selected for his second wife has only been three or four years out of school; but General Foster is said to be one of the most accomplished men who is not an excellent *parti*, and the best-sense of the word for a man of any age.

The trial of Mrs. E. G. Wharton, indicted for poisoning Mr. Eugene Van Ness, in October, 1871, was begun in Annapolis, Maryland, on Monday.

Stanley, the alleged discoverer of Livingstone, after a short career of unprecedented success, finds an opponent in no less a person than the great Bishop of Natal, Colenso. That good prelate publicly announced that he had read with shame and regret that portion of Stanley's African experiences which vilified Bishop Tozer. The Bishop of Litchfield obviously defended his colleague in distant Africa, and pointed out "the many difficulties by which he (Bishop Tozer) was surrounded through want of ready-handed support, not having the assistance of a single clergyman."

Mrs. Myra Clark Gaines has come to the surface again, not in her old interminable suit, which survived everybody who understood it, but in a new one growing out of that. One of her attorneys used her for five thousand dollars fees, and she successfully resisted the claim by setting up in defense the law of limitations.

S. H. Pairo, late City Attorney of Mobile, Alabama, was last week convicted of burglary and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. When asked by the Court if he had anything to say, he replied "No," and Judge Moulton passed the sentence without making any remarks.

Joaquin Miller has reached London, where he is again being lionized. His last poem is not a success, and he has moved at his publisher's awaiting his orders to issue.

Now let the Grand Duke Alexis break his heart. The "beautiful young lady" with whom he delighted to dance at St. Louis, and with whom he "fell in love," has married "another feller." The Kansas papers contain accounts of the recent nuptials of Miss Sallie Shannon, daughter of Governor Wilson Shannon, of Lawrence, in that State, to Mr. John A. Walsh, a young St. Louis millionaire. They were married with great pomp at the Catholic Church, at Lawrence, a Catholic Bishop officiating.

Kodama, the Japanese who was baptized by Dr. Newman at Washington, last spring, has almost entirely given up the study of law for that of theology. Kodama declares his intention of establishing a Methodist church in Japan, of which he is himself to be pastor.

The bale of cotton which citizens of Savannah gave to Miss Lydia Thompson was lately sold in St. Louis for the benefit of a charitable society. It is cheering to know that this object will be better carried about the country as an advertisement.

Responsibilities of Life Insurance Companies.

[From the Zanesville (O.) Signal.]

In the case of M. L. C. D. Caldwell, administratrix of the estate of C. D. Caldwell, deceased, against the Union Central Life Insurance Company of Cincinnati, tried before our Common Pleas Court last week, to recover a policy of $5,000, issued to Mr. Caldwell for the benefit of his wife, the jury returned a verdict for the full amount in favor of the plaintiff. The late Mr. Caldwell, from whose estate Mrs. Caldwell proceeded against the company, met his death by having the accident which led to his death, that his papers were ready and requested to call and get them. He delayed doing so, saying he would attend to it on Monday; but on the Sunday following he was thrown from his buggy, receiving fatal injuries, and on Monday a friend called upon the agent, proffering the premium and requesting the policy. The agent refused to accede to the request of Mr. Caldwell's friend until he should communicate the fact that the party was alive to perfect the insurance; hence the above suit, in which the company plead, without avail, however, that no policy had actually been issued on Mr. Caldwell's life. It was further set forth that the suit should have been brought in